

THE DAUGHTERS OF SUNSET OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I today join with my constituents in recognizing the 20th Anniversary of Daughters of Sunset.

For the last 20 years, the Daughters of Sunset have been instrumental in mini-outreach initiatives in and around the Sikeston, MO area. The membership is a unique group of women dedicated to maintaining a clean and safe community for all. The organization has been successful in its school and summer lunch programs for needy children, community cleanup and revitalization efforts, fire and natural disaster assistance, and transportation programs to aid the sick and elderly. The Daughters of Sunset have also been responsible for assisting the homeless and destitute as well as convey sympathy to bereaved families.

The Daughters of Sunset also have provided 41 academic scholarships, and have publically recognized the efforts of outstanding community leaders in and around Southeastern Missouri. Today, past participants of the organization carry on the tradition of the Daughters of Sunset and continue to participate in communities throughout Missouri, and all over the country.

It is my great honor to recognize the community participants that comprise the Southeast Missouri Daughters of Sunset on this, the twentieth anniversary of the organization. On behalf of the people of State of Missouri, I look forward to 20 more years of leadership and outstanding civic participation from the Daughters of Sunset.●

RECOGNITION OF JIM WANAMAKER

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to commend Mr. Jim Wanamaker of Greenville, MS, for his distinguished public service as the chief engineer for the Board of Mississippi Levee Commissioners. Jim graduated from Mississippi State University in 1963 and moved to the Mississippi Delta after serving in the Navy for 2 years. For the past 40 years, he has been a key advocate and one of the most knowledgeable experts in flood control in the Yazoo basin.

Flood control in the Mississippi Delta is fundamental to the quality of life and economic viability of the region. The Mississippi Levee Board has been the local sponsor and a leader in bringing improved flood protection to the citizens, property owners, and communities throughout the region. The Mississippi River Levee Enlargement Project, the Upper Steele Bayou Project, the Big Sunflower River Maintenance Project, and the Yazoo Backwater Project have all benefited from the professional and wise counsel of Jim Wanamaker in his capacity as chief engineer of the Mississippi Levee Board.

Jim has set an excellent example for future generations who aspire to excel in public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jim Wanamaker upon his retirement, which is scheduled later this year, and to thank him for the valuable contributions which he has made toward the quality of life of the citizens in this very important part of our Nation.●

REPORT ON THE INTENT TO ENTER INTO A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (FTA) WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MOROCCO—PM 71

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intent to enter into a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Kingdom of Morocco.

This agreement will create new opportunities for America's workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers by eliminating barriers in trade with Morocco. Morocco is one of the United States strongest friends in the Middle East. Increased trade will benefit Americans and help strengthen a tolerant, open, and more prosperous Morocco. Entering into an FTA with Morocco will not only strengthen our bilateral ties with this important ally, it will also advance my goal of a Middle East free trade area (MEFTA) within a decade.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the United States-Morocco FTA. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this free trade agreement.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC LAW 107-228 AUTHORITY FOR RUSSIAN FEDERATION DEBT REDUCTION FOR NONPROLIFERATION—PM 72

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 1321 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228), I transmit herewith a report prepared by my Administration on implementation of the debt reduction authority conferred by title XIII, subtitle B of Public Law 107-228.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 8, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3752. An act to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3108) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. ANDREWS.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMAS, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. RANGEL.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3752. An act to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry, to authorize appropriations for the Office of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED DURING ADJOURNMENT

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 5, 2004, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2136. An act to extend the final report date and termination date of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, to provide additional funding for the Commission, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with